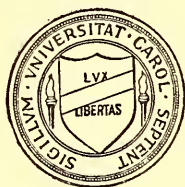


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Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen

^Smith

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Mr & Mrs Chas. J. Shields

HISTORY OF
SCOTLAND NECK
MOUNTED RIFLEMEN

LATER

Co. G. 3rd North Carolina Calvary, 41st Regiment, Confederate States Army

1861-1865

BY
NORFLEET S. SMITH
1st Lieut. 11th Infantry, 5th Division
World War.

The following names of members have been obtained since this article went to press: Edward L. Davis and W. B. Marks.—See page four.

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THE SCOTLAND NECK MOUNTED RIFLEMEN

Later Co. G, Third North Carolina Cavalry, Forty-first Regiment,
Confederate States Army.---A Correction in History

As the son of a former officer of The Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen, afterwards Co. G. Third North Carolina Cavalry, Forty first North Carolina Regiment, C. S. A., and as a devoted friend of the First Sergeant of this heroic band, William E. Whitmore (now the oldest living cavalryman in North Carolina) I assume it a duty to the memory of those devoted men to take issue with Mr. W. C. Allen in his publication "History of Halifax County" in which he states on page 108; "as this regiment was the first from the State and the Enfield Blues the first company from Halifax County, it will not be improper, before mentioning other companies and other Halifax County men, to follow briefly the military fortunes of this heroic body of men, who risked life, fortune, and honor in a cause they thought right."

It is not my desire, nor my intention, to detract one atom from the glory or fame of the Enfield Blues,

for they deserve all the praise and honor bestowed upon them, but I do claim for the Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen, that they were the first Company organized in Halifax County and that they were the first mounted troops in the State. As a basis for my claim, and as a foundation for the history of this beloved body of splendid soldiers, I am going to quote freely from a sketch written by the late John Y. Savage, at one time an officer in this Company, and from first hand information furnished by my beloved friend, and former comrade of my father, William E. Whitmore.

The Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen, as they were affectionately known before they were mustered into the service of the Confederate States Army, were organized in November 1859, as an independent volunteer company, being armed and equipped by the members themselves. The first Captain was P. M. Edmondson, and the other officers were William

H. Smith, first lieutenant, W. N. Step-toe, second lieutenant (who resigned) Atheton B. Hill, second lieutenant and G. A. Higgs, third lieutenant.

At the time the Enfield Blues were mustered into the service, and when the flag was presented to them by Miss Whitaker, the Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen were in active existence and ready for service, and marched from Scotland Neck to Enfield to participate in the presentation of the flag to the Enfield Blues.

In April 1861, along with other Companies in different parts of the State, the Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen were mustered into the service of the Confederate States Army as the first mounted Company in the state. A beautiful silk Confederate battle flag, made by the devoted hands of the ladies of the community, was presented to the Company, the ceremony taking place in the grove of the home of W. R. Bond, just North of Scotland Neck, and was witnessed by practically the entire countryside. It was a beautiful piece of workmanship, the name of Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen embroidered on one side, and the seal of the State of North Carolina painted on the other, with a gold fringe on three sides.

Immediately after being mustered in this Company took up its march to Wilmington, North Carolina, receiving an ovation all along the route, and

a great reception at Wilmington, being handsomely entertained by the citizens. After resting up for a week or ten days the Company went into camp at Wrightsville Beach, being assigned as pickets and coast guards from Fort Fisher to Masonboro. After completing this duty the Company was ordered to Jacksonville, Onslow County, to guard approaches to New Bern, and while on that duty came in contact with the enemy at Swansboro in a sharp engagement, suffering a few casualties.

The six months service, for which this company was enlisted, having expired, a reorganization was required by law, and the following officers were elected: Capt. G. A. Higgs, 1st Lieut. B. G. Smith, 2nd Lieut. A. P. Hyman, 3rd Lieut. J. Y. Savage. Lieut. Hyman resigned and Dr. Al. B. Wiggins was elected in his stead. Soon after this election Capt. Higgs resigned, B. G. Smith becoming Captain, J. Y. Savage, 1st Lieut., Dr. A. S. Wiggins 2nd Lieut. and Norfleet Smith, 3rd Lieut. Soon after this the Company returned to Wilmington and saw service around that section until the spring of 1863, when they were ordered to rejoin their regiment, the 3rd N. C. Cavalry, stationed at Franklin, Virginia, where they served as pickets until the Fall of 1863, when they were ordered to Kinston, N. C. During the service at Kinston

quite a sharp engagement occurred in which there were several casualties, and one man captured, John L. Baker.

The company remained at Kinston, N. C., until the spring of 1864 and were then ordered back to Virginia, and became members of General Barringer's Brigade, W. H. F. Lee's Division, Army of Northern Virginia. From the time that news was received that General J. E. B. Stuart had been killed at Yellow Tavern the company saw continuous service until the end of the war. Some of the principal engagements were Centralia, Hall's Shop, White Oak Swamp, Drewry's Bluff, Ashland, Five Forks.

Of the latter engagement, Capt. W. R. Bond, sometime officer on Brigade Staff Army of Northern Virginia, says in his pamphlet "Pickett or Pettigrew"; "On the disastrous field of Five Forks our cavalry was not only holding its own, but was driving that of the enemy when the infantry gave way. This success of the cavalry on their part of the line was very nearly the last ever gained by any portion of our army. They had been fighting by squadrons and that composed of the Onslow and Halifax Companies of the 3rd North Carolina cavalry regiment had just made a successful charge, when, looking to the left, they saw the infantry retreating in disorder. The

squadron on this occasion was commanded and led by a first Lieutenant of the Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen, the late Norfleet Smith—a brave officer, a good citizen and a loyal friend."

About this time, or possibly before, an incident occurred which should be recorded. It was learned that the enemy had accumulated several thousand head of beef cattle at City Point near Petersburg, and General Lee ordered General Hampton to take his command, to which Co. G. 3rd N. C. Cavalry now belonged, make an attack on City Point, capture the cattle and as many prisoners as possible.

Just before daylight on the morning selected, after a forced march, the attack was made. The cavalry charged in on the enemy encampment, through the pitch-black darkness, yelling and firing pistols, taking the enemy completely by surprise, capturing about two thousand head of beef cattle, a large number of prisoners and one lone cow, which was given to General Lee as a milch cow.

Returning from the raid the Confederates were intercepted on the Boynton Plank Road by a large force of Yankees in an effort to recapture the cattle. While Gen. Hampton's Brigade engaged the enemy and held them in check, General Rosser's Brigade drove the cattle off through a by path, forced them to swim a mill

pond, successfully eluded the enemy, and saved the cattle to feed the starving army on its retreat from Petersburg.

The retreat of the starving and worn out Confederate army from Petersburg to Appomattox is a matter of history, and needs no retelling here to make it more memorable.

When General Lee had decided to surrender, the cavalry was given permission to escape, if possible, which the Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen, together with others, succeeded in doing. Therefore, they were not at the surrender at Appomattox, but were sent home on parole from near Danville, Va., about ten days after Lee surrendered, with instructions to report within ten days to Gen. Johnston's Army, if he had not surrendered in the meantime. However, Gen. Johnston did surrender, so the actual service of this company ended when they were sent home on parole.

Thus ended the active existence of that illustrious band, who now turned back to their homes to begin the reconstruction of the blood-stained and bleeding South. May your glory never dim, and may your sublime example live on through the endless years as an inspiration to duty, and love of country, to the youth of the South in all future generations.

The sometime members of the Scotland Neck Mounted Riflemen, as far

as could be furnished by First Sergeant William E. Whitmore, are as follows:

W. H. Smith, Geo. Smith, J. H. Lawrence, Jim Anthony, W. H. Shields, Jas. A. Higgs, J. Y. Savage, Dr. A. S. Wiggins, A. Hyman, Bennet and Wilson Allsbrook, George Andrews, Joe Arrington, Ben Arrington, George Harden, Whit Cotten, Jack Burgess, Mike Wilkins, Bob O'Neil, Lafayette Moore, J. E. Boyette, Tom Powell, Noah Powell, Bob Herring, W. T. Joyner, L. M. Pittman, Plummer, Branch Bros., Batchelor, Draper, Faulkner, Hall, Jenkins, Nichols, Pullin, I. H. Smith, Peyton Smith, Wright, Julian S. Carr, Elias Carr, Dowd Bros., Dr. Hodge, Dr. Hugh Davis, Cullifer, Draper, Drew, Hancock, several Hymans.

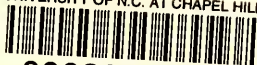
Lieut. David Camp (killed), Lieut. Frank Pender (killed), J. R. Tillery, Frank Ferrel, T. L. Savage, George French, William T. Vaughan, W. Burton White, John T. Phelps, M. G. Leggett, J. N. Phelps, Noah Biggs, Eli Biggs, John Lawrence, Whitehead, Bob Long and Robinson, John Hall, William Leggett, Joe Henry Bell.

B. D. Webb, W. E. Whitmore, Norfleet Smith, Capt. Cooper, Spier Pittman, Jimmy Shields, Thuey, Marston, Bellamy, King, McMillan, Jenkins, Jones, Saules, Williams, several Hancocks, Bill Watson, Sam Pitts, Tom White and Sledge.





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